

AUG 08 2002

THE BAPTIST *Record*

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JULY 25, 2002

VOL. 126

NO. 24



AT STAGE'S EDGE — Participants in the 2002 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night July 19 at Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson prayerfully move to the edge of the stage as Christian contemporary band Exit 10 performs. A capacity crowd of over 9,000 youths attended the annual event sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (BR photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)

estimate the number to be around 300," said Don Lum, chairman of the committee that planned the annual event and youth consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Christian contemporary band Exit 10 from Cumming, Ga., did an excellent job of setting the tone for worship, Lum said, while youth evangelist David Nasser of Birmingham "brought home the message of what we're really about as Christians."

"This year's Youth Night just built on last year's event, which was outstanding. We wanted these young people who came to see the importance of worship, celebration, and commitment. I believe we accomplished those goals," Lum pointed out.

Amid the growing excitement of Exit 10's concert, band members reminded the crowd several times that the real purpose of the gathering was to honor God and praise him.

"Folks really came to worship. It was an attitude that was noticed by Coliseum

staffers and security personnel. They made a point of telling me how well-behaved and respectful our young people were toward them.

"They're not accustomed to being treated that way at rock concerts and other secular events at the Coliseum. Evidently, the way our Baptist young people conducted themselves had a significant impact on them. I'm proud of that," Lum said.

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night has long been the largest annual gathering of Mississippi Baptists anywhere in the state. The Mississippi Baptist Convention draws 2,000-2,500 messengers and guests each year, while other Mississippi Baptist events have experienced dwindling attendance.

The event, a mainstay of Mississippi Baptist life now more than 30 years old, has been well-attended from the start. Several years ago organizers moved it from the Coliseum to Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson to accommodate climbing attendance, but a violent thunderstorm wiped out the event and prompted a return to the Coliseum.

A twin event format was then implemented, with the regular Friday evening gathering and the addition of a second gathering on the following Saturday morning. The Saturday morning version didn't catch on, however, and organizers returned to the Friday-night-only format.

An underlying but largely unspoken concern for the 2002 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night was the unknown effect that the events of September 11 might have on attendance. With virtually every seat in the arena occupied by the 7 p.m. start time, planners were relieved when their concerns failed to materialize.

"We're proud that Mississippi Baptist young people came expecting to be confronted with the Gospel in numbers that were just as good as years past," said Lum.

In addition to Lum, the 2002 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night Planning Committee included:

- Mike Brister, associate pastor and minister to students at First Church, Brookhaven.
- Jon Cooper, minister to students at Liberty Church, Liberty.
- Randy Cuchens, music/youth minister at First Church, Newton.
- Rob Futral, pastor of Country Woods Church, Jackson.
- Gary Phillips, associate pastor and minister to students at First Church, Quitman.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

NYC team returns

CWJC records successes

Sunday school lessons

Practical Principles



Exit 10

Nasser

- Gary Watts, member of Wynndale Church, Terry.

The 2003 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night will be held on July 25 at Mississippi Coliseum. For more information, contact Lum at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3280 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 280. E-mail: dlum@mbcb.org.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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VOLUME 126 NUMBER 23
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date.

Most Christians would probably agree that the many components of the American entertainment media are out of control. Regular readers of the Editor's notebook know that is the position of this writer.

A quick scan of network and cable television offerings any night of the week will reveal story lines dealing with just about every perversion known to mankind, from pedophilia to bestiality to necrophilia. Violence is rampant, and murder is commonplace. Homosexuality and witchcraft are portrayed as normal lifestyles, while religious people are depicted as prejudiced, controlling, and diabolical.

Who would have thought that America would one day be swamped with all this cultural sewerage? Even worse, who would have thought that Christians by and large would be the ones ridiculed and accused of wrongdoing for opposing such trash?

That's the entertainment media in America today, but there are some members of that elite (and elitist) throng who have managed to hold on to their character and integrity. Sometimes it seems as if there aren't any show business people like that left, but there are.

More than a few people might be surprised to know that Pat Sajak is one of those people. Sajak, longtime host of the popular syndicated game show *Wheel of Fortune*, is a Vietnam veteran (he volunteered) who began his career as a radio disc jockey and television weatherman.

In 1981, he was hired to host the fledgling *Wheel of Fortune* show and, as they say, the rest is history. Sajak has gone on to win three Emmys and earn a star on Hollywood's well-known Walk of Fame.

Sajak has reached an enviable position in Hollywood. He's undoubtedly had

every chance imaginable to become one of the Beautiful People and adopt their lifestyles and mores. He has decided not to do so.

Sajak has chosen to raise his family in a suburb of Annapolis, Md., where his children can be close to their grandparents. He doesn't mind jetting to the West Coast when it's time to tape *Wheel of Fortune*. In a recent speech delivered at Hillsdale College's Spring Convocation in Hillsdale, Michigan, he explained his rationale.

"One of the dangers of my business is that it has the potential to fill you with a distorted view of life and of your importance in it. And it's understandable in a way. If you are part of a successful enterprise, people treat you very well. They send limos for you. They tiptoe around you. They pretend that the most outlandish and inane things you might say are important and quotable," Sajak said.

While admitting that he has been happy to cash his paychecks from Hollywood, he pointed out that living and working in such an environment can quickly corrupt one's thinking.

"How can you write about people fairly if they seem so out of touch with what you are used to in everyday life? That might help explain why religion is rarely depicted as a natural part of life in the average sitcom or drama series, despite the fact that tens of millions of Americans say that it is important to them..."

"You see, they (Hollywood) are — for the most part — clueless. Clueless about this country and its people. Clueless about you..."

"THE REASON YOU'VE NOT SEEN US IN CHURCH LATELY IS WE'VE MOVED OUR MEMBERSHIP TO THE PSYCHIC FRIENDS NETWORK!"



Who do you people out here — the ones they fly over on their way to the other Coast for meetings — who do you think you are?

"Well, you are this country. You are its future... The center is not Los Angeles or New York. This power is not in Hollywood or Washington. The power is here (with you)," he said.

Wise words, well spoken. It is indeed time our voices were heard when we complain about the excesses of the American entertainment media. Are you ready to take a stand? Pray about it, and then act.

Source: *Imprimis*; vol. 31, no. 7

GUEST OPINION:



How I am perceived

By Gregory Tomlin
Southwestern Seminary
Ft. Worth, Texas

together in his mother's womb. God, he also wrote, had seen his "unformed substance" or, in Talmudic Hebrew, his "embryo."

Most interestingly, God is described as having written in his book all the days ordained for the psalmist "before one of them came to be." How much more does he care for those defenseless children unfortunate enough to be labeled "unintended pregnancies" by organizations such as Planned Parenthood?

I, as a Christian, must promote (to borrow a phrase from President Bush) "a culture of life." That means I must support abortion-alternative crisis pregnancy centers, laud abstinence until marriage as the only responsible method of family planning, and pray that God will dissuade those in the abortion industry from killing what he has created.

I must also convince my brothers and sisters in Christ that we, as a church, are to be more than pro-life. We must be pro-life and willing to accept the responsibility of caring for unwanted children.

If these actions earn me the titles of "fundamentalist," "fanatic" and "radical," then I will wear them as badges of honor.

Tomlin is news director at Southwestern Seminary.

hateful. While they spend time proving they aren't, we're still in business.

• *The financial redirect.* Money is our real reason for killing these children. The more children we abort the more money we make. Since we can't state our true feelings about money, always remember to say that we have the best interest of the women at heart.

Remember that we are here to provide affordable reproductive planning and reduce the need for abortions. They'll never catch on and you can keep running.

• *The "we care more than you."* If a Christian ever speaks to you about abortion, tell them that we are actually sparing the child from a life of rejection and hardship. Killing the child actually proves that we care more than they do.

• *The Chicken Little.* Tell the public, "If these Christians suc-

ceed in outlawing abortion, the rest of our freedoms will be taken away by Christian Big Brother." Simply put, the sky will fall.

• *The minority report.* Tell the public that Christians who oppose abortion are a "fringe minority" and then overstate our level of support. Let's say 80% — no, 90% — of Americans agree with us.

Planned Parenthood ran all six plays in the letter.

When my daughters were born, I opened my Bible to Psalm 139:14-16 and wrote their names, dates of birth, lengths, and weights in the margin of the page. On numerous occasions I have returned to the passage to marvel at both the beauty of the text and its theological implications.

The psalmist David wrote of God's intimate knowledge of his bones and kidneys and of his gentle care in "knitting" him

Debate heats up on latest African fossil find

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A chimpanzee-like skull in size and shape, a large brow akin to a gorilla, and some human-like teeth — all features of the latest archaeological find, named "Toumai" — do not enhance the cause of Darwinian evolution, scientists said after widespread publicity on the discovery.

Jonathan Wells, one of the leading thinkers in the intelligent design movement, remains as doubtful of evolution as ever.

"Proponents of Darwinian evolution simply assume on theoretical grounds that humans evolved from ape-like creatures, then they plug fossil finds into their theoretical framework," Wells said in comments to Baptist Press. "It is precisely the scarcity of the evidence that gets Darwinists so excited when something — anything! — turns up."

"The result is the exuberant hype that now accompanies Toumai."

Toumai was heralded in the July 11 issue of the journal Nature and in an accompanying spate of news stories.

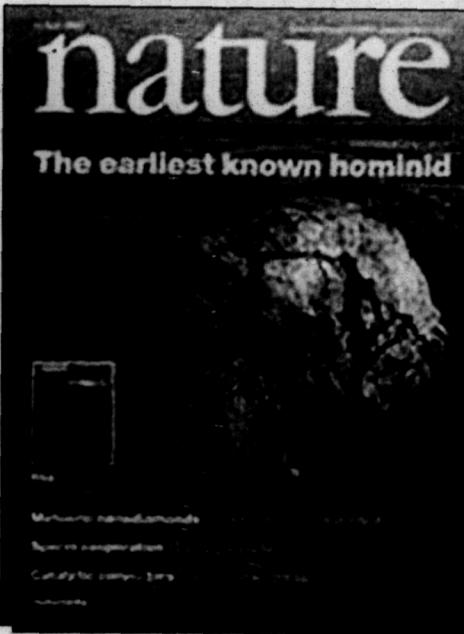
The skull and fragments comprising Toumai were unearthed by scientists led by Michel Brunet of France in a desert in Chad, a central African country.

Among the scientific community's assessments of Toumai's importance:

- Nature's paleontology editor called it "arguably the most important fossil discovery in living memory."
- Nature's Science Update on July 11 stated that Toumai

"could sink our current ideas about human evolution."

The New York Times stated that Toumai's remains "suggest an evolutionary complexity and diversity in human origins that seem to defy description by the simplified family trees of the past."



HOT TOPIC — The latest fossil discovery to rock evolution circles, "Toumai" from the African nation of Chad, is heralded in the July 11 issue of the journal Nature and in several other national publications. (BP art)

• BBC News Online stated that Toumai "puts to rest any idea [among scientists] that there might be a single 'missing link' between humans and chimpanzees..."

Wells, a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute in Seattle and author of "Icons of Evolution: Why much of what

we teach about evolution is wrong" (Regnery, 2000), told Baptist Press that the most important issue raised by Toumai is not whether it is the oldest such fossil on record (science methodology estimates it to be seven million years old) nor whether ape-like creatures may have preceded humans.

"The most important issue is whether human beings originated accidentally, by an unguided natural process that did not have us in mind, or by design, through a creative act of God," said Wells, who holds Ph.D. degrees in religious studies from Yale University and in molecular and cell biology from the University of California at Berkeley.

"If fossils cannot tell us anything reliable about ancestry and descent, much less can they tell us how any particular fossil originated."

"In the absence of sufficient evidence that humans originated by an unguided natural process, it is quite reasonable (indeed more reasonable) for Christians to affirm that human beings were created by design, in the image of God," Wells said.

"Darwinian evolution, to a large extent, is simply applied materialistic philosophy: It assumes from the start that humans originated through purely material causes, rather than any sort of divine creation.

"So the grand evolutionary story of humans descending from ape-like ancestors is assumed to be a fact, and whenever meager fossil evidence turns up, it is plugged into the story wherever it seems to fit."

In the case of this latest fossil, Wells noted that "its discoverers claim that Toumai is part of our lineage rather than the lineage of gorillas or chimpanzees."

"Meanwhile, we are left with no fossils of ancient chim-

panzees; the chimpanzee fossil record is empty."

"This leads me to suspect that Toumai's discoverers were too eager to find human ancestors and too willing to overlook the possibility that their discovery may have nothing at all to do with human origins."

Wells stated that the evolution of humans and chimpanzees from a common ancestor would be plausible "if there were a natural mechanism capable of accomplishing it."

The mechanism proposed in modern evolutionary theory is a combination of natural selection and random variations, with new variations being supplied by genetic mutations.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JULY 25, 2002
VOL. 126
NO. 24

D.C. benefits opposed

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Republican congressman is looking at ways to overturn a law that grants marriage benefits to the domestic partners of District of Columbia employees — a measure that conservatives said was voted on soon after Sept. 11 by lawmakers unaware of provisions in the bill that undermine traditional families, CNSNews.com reported July 15. Rep. David Vitter, a member of the D.C. subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee and chairman of a subcommittee for the House Republican Policy Committee, is looking at "feasible legislative strategies" to overturn the Health Care Benefits Expansion Act of 1992, which went into effect during the week of July 8, Newman said. The law, approved by the D.C. City Council in June 1992, establishes a system of registration for unmarried, cohabitating couples — including same sex couples — that would give them benefits normally extended only to married couples. Since 1992, Congress has prohibited the District of Columbia from using federal funds to implement the act but in September, the House allowed the act to become law when it rejected an amendment to the D.C. Appropriations Act that had the effect of reestablishing the ban on facilitating partner benefits in the District. Among other benefits, the law allows unmarried people 18 and older who share a permanent residence to register as domestic partners. The law also gives domestic partners the right to have final say over funeral procedures and to take annual or unpaid leave to take care of or to attend the funeral of the domestic partner. The Vital Records Division in the D.C. Department of Health will be in charge of running the domestic partner registration program. Couples who provide documentation that they satisfy the requirements for registration and pay a \$45 fee should receive their certificates within 10 days, officials said. Currently eight states, 130 municipalities, 168 Fortune 500 companies, 4,000 private employers, and 167 colleges and universities offer domestic partner benefits to their employees, according to CNSNews.com.

Looking back

10 years ago

The Southern Baptist Convention is not dead, despite the warnings issued by some Southern Baptists opposed to the denomination's current direction, according to Herschel Hobbs, widely regarded as the convention's elder statesman. He advised disgruntled moderate-conservatives not to leave the denomination.

20 years ago

Foy Rogers retires after 22 years as director of the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He said on his last day, prior to a banquet given in his honor, that he felt he'd accomplished the goals he set for his department 22 years earlier.

30 years ago

The Chester Swor class of First Church, Vicksburg, celebrates its first anniversary. The class of 16-year-old boys is named for Chester Swor, who is "now engaged in evangelism work throughout the Southern Baptist Convention territory, specializing in youth revivals and youth week programs."

Mississippi Baptists wrap up NYC work

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Final in a series

'Born-alive' bill going to White House

WASHINGTON (BP) — Legislation providing legal protection to fully delivered babies, even when abortion is intended, cleared its highest hurdle July 18. The U.S. Senate passed by unanimous consent the Born-alive Infants Protection Act (H.R. 2175). The Senate action followed by four months the House of Representatives' approval of the bill. The House adopted the bill by voice vote in mid-March.

President Bush has signaled he will sign it into law. The bill clarifies that a newborn child fully outside his mother's womb is a person to be protected under federal law. It was first proposed in 2000 after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a state law barring partial-birth abortions and after congressional testimony was heard describing an abortion method in which newborns who survive are allowed to die.

The procedure, which nurses testified is used at Christ Hospital in Chicago, is called live-birth abortion. In the method, delivery is induced. If the baby survives the procedure, he/she is left unattended to die.

As the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Team continued their July work at the Fresh Kills site on Staten Island in New York City — the final home for the millions of tons of debris from the World Trade Center — one of the unique opportunities for the Mississippi volunteers came with the "hydration runs."

Water and juices were supplied for the workers out in the field, so hydration stations — little more than wooden sheds and coolers — were scattered about the site.

In order to make periodic deliveries of ice, water, and juice to these stations, volunteers had to don Tyvek body suits (actually made of a fibrous, sturdy paper), yellow

"Since then, she hasn't been sleeping," he continued, his eyes misting. "She won't go up in a tall building, and she won't take any public transportation. I don't know if we'll ever get over it."

Sometimes words weren't necessary. Workers at Fresh Kills — the name is derived from the language of the original Dutch settlers — would often come in, go through the serving line and fix their meals, then go into the dining tent to eat. It was common to see these workers finish eating, throw their plates and cups away, and simply lay their heads down on the tables — sometimes napping, other times just to escape the noise and activity.

Mississippi Baptist volunteers and Salvation Army chap-



PREPPING FOR MEALS — Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers accept deliveries of food to be served at the Hilltop Café on the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island in New York City. Here, workers begin the preparation process of serving several hundred meals per day. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

plane hit," he said. "We were dispatched to the scene, and we knew immediately that we had to work as fast as possible to get people out of the building. While it was burning, we really didn't think of the possibility of a collapse."

"I had just moved an injured woman to what I thought was a safe location, and had turned back to go into the building when the first collapse happened. I crouched down behind a truck and covered my head. I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that I was about to die. I thought about my wife, my two kids, and wondered who was going to take care of them."

"You can't imagine the sound. It turned as black as midnight. I covered my head and prayed that death would come quick and painless. So you can imagine how I felt when I looked up, saw light, and realized that I wasn't dead."

"There wasn't anything to do but get back to work," he concluded with a shrug.

One especially poignant moment came when an elderly

Japanese family visited the Fresh Kills site. The couple, along with a son, daughter-in-law, and two small children had come to the landfill to meet those who were involved in the recovery effort, and to leave flowers in memory of their son.

Their son had worked in one of the twin towers, and none of his remains had been found.

The couple spoke no English, nor did they need to. The mother had several photos of her lost son, one being of her son and his father in front of one of the now vanished buildings. Her barely contained anguish moved everyone.

Recovery work at Fresh Kills is now officially complete. While plans are being debated as to the future of the World Trade Center site, the future of those involved in the tragedy — both as victims and workers — will be forever changed by the events of 9/11.

For the Mississippi volunteers who served at Fresh Kills, Ground Zero, and other sites in New York, their awareness of needs in the midst of disaster and the hope God gives will be forever stamped on their souls.

Yet, the next disaster awaits.



SORTING DEBRIS — Heavy equipment at the Fresh Kills site seems to take on a life of its own as workers continue sorting through the rubble of the World Trade Center. The structure at right contains "sifting" equipment to help find any evidence or human remains from the disaster. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

rubber boots, and respirators which looked like purple pastel versions of military gas masks.

After delivering provisions around the site in a van, the Tyvek suits were discarded and the boots scrubbed down and decontaminated.

Every person had a story. One member of the Army Corps of Engineers told of how, on the morning of September 11, he had gone into Manhattan and, for whatever reason, his subway train missed his stop. That missed stop prevented him from being at the World Trade Center site when the first plane hit.

"My sister had driven into the city right before me," he said, "and I knew after the first plane hit I had to find her. I headed back toward Battery Park to look for her, and just happened up on her in the lobby of a hotel."

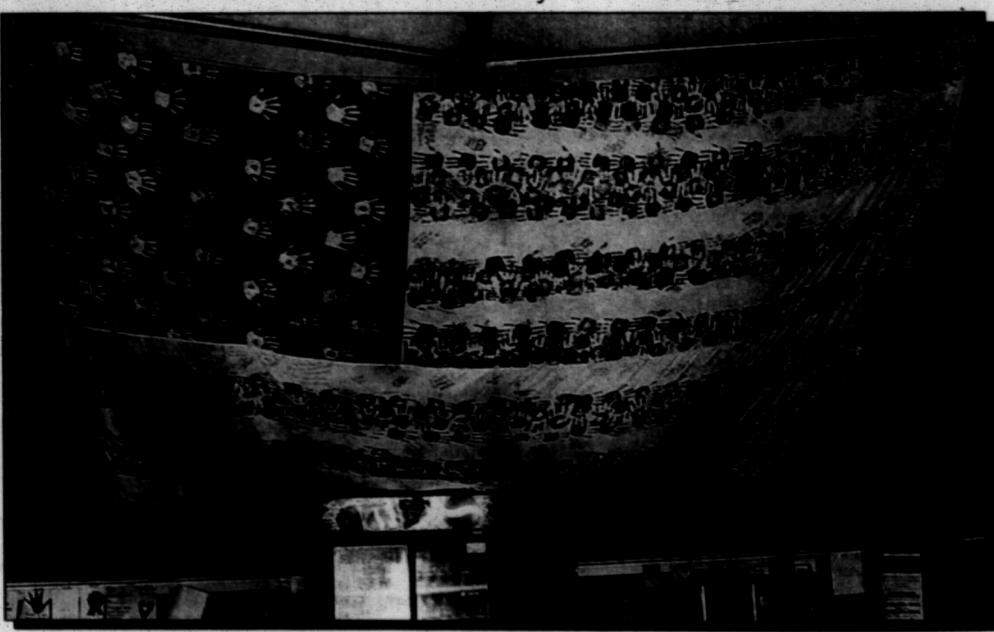
"She was bruised and bloody, and her shoes were missing, but she was still alive, thank God. She had no idea how she got there."

lains would sometimes sit with the workers at mealtimes. Some of the workers would be cordial but not conversational; other times they would open up and share their experiences.

One common theme was the continual wonder at why a group from Mississippi (or other states for that matter), would give of their time working in such a harsh environment. With few exceptions, the workers were verbally appreciative.

"You can't imagine what it's like, knowing that there are so many people who care," said a New York Police Department officer.

In one extended conversation with a firefighter, the reality of how close death can approach was made plain. "I was on duty in try, rests in the dining tent of the Fresh Kills landfill. The flag is composed of handprints of hundreds of boys and girls. (BR photo by Tony Martin)



HELPING HANDS — An American flag, one of several encouraging displays of love and concern sent by school children from all over the country. "I was on duty in try, rests in the dining tent of the Fresh Kills landfill. The flag is composed of handprints of hundreds of boys and girls. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

Miss. CWJC program counting successes

By Tim Nicholas
Staff Writer

Laura West, a November graduate of the Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) program in Tupelo, has a new job — and thanks to a kind-hearted donor and a local Baptist church, she has transportation to get her there.

West's new job is as a production line worker at a factory that makes furniture covering samples. Without reliable transportation, West being able to work there would have been impossible.

When her old car broke down for what turned out to be the final time, local CWJC director Cheryl Nelson mentioned West's predicament to her husband Tom, who owns Nelson Auto Sales in Baldwyn and had just the right car in mind for West.

"Tom doesn't usually take trade-ins, but this time he did. It was an '83 LTD and he said he would be happy to donate it," Cheryl Nelson said.

However, the 19-year-old car needed

a new starter and a fresh set of brakes. A local Baptist church group decided to anonymously fund the repairs and even

threw in two months of auto insurance and the cost of the license plate.

The 58-year old West said no one had ever given her anything before. "It makes you feel good to know people care," she said.

West attends Harrisburg Church in Tupelo with CWJC volunteer teacher



GOING TO WORK — Laura West (second from right) of Tupelo, a recent Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) graduate, admires her donated automobile along with Tupelo CWJC director Cheryl Nelson (right), CWJC volunteer teacher Mildred Lollar (second from left), and Ralph Cain, associate director of missions for Lee County Association in Tupelo. (BR-photo by Tim Nicholas)

began part-time cleaning work at the Lee County Association office.

At a number of locations around Mississippi, CWJC provides employment preparation and self-esteem education along with mentoring for women who want to break the cycle of poverty and dependence and improve their lives.

CWJC is a program of the Mississippi Women's Missionary Union (WMU) and the national WMU office in Birmingham. Former Mississippi WMU President Sandra Nash of Clinton is the state's CWJC coordinator. At the Mississippi level, the program is supported by gifts to the Cooperative Program.

Tupelo's CWJC chapter has graduated 24 women who in many cases have gone on to hold good jobs, earn their GED certificates, and attend college.

West said that as a result of her experience with CWJC, any employer "won't be disappointed to have me. I do things right."

For more information on CWJC, contact WMU consultant Tammy Anderson at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3323 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 323. E-mail: tanderson@mbcb.org.

SPAM

Spam just had a big anniversary. I'm not talking about the new use of the word describing junk e-mail. I'm talking about the cube of food! It showed up on the market place 65 years ago and people have been eating it ever since.

At the recent anniversary celebration, the Spam folks said that a can of Spam is eaten every 3.1 seconds around the clock. I'm sure they have the data to support their claim, but personally I have not eaten one bite of Spam in 40 years and it has been decades since I have seen anyone eat Spam!

I'm not opposed to Spam, but I don't eat it for a number of reasons, three of which I've listed here:

- I just don't particularly like the way it tastes.
- I do not know what it is.
- Alpo dog food looks more appealing.

According to the Spam producers, I am in the minority since more people like Spam than don't. So, I will just take this opportunity to pass along my congratulations to the manufacturers of Spam and to those connoisseurs of good food who actually enjoy eating whatever that is.

Now, you need to know that Spam is BIG stuff! There is even a Spam Museum in Austin, Minn.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Also, this is a little known fact: if all the Spam ever made was placed end to end, it would circle the globe nearly 13 times!

My real reason for mentioning Spam's anniversary is not to try to up their sales, or down the product, but to simply point out how all of us go about dealing with the Spam issue.

Some folks like it. Some folks don't. Some folks buy it; others would not dare. Honestly, in all of my years I have never, ever, seen anyone get upset over Spam. For instance:

- I've never known of anyone to boycott a grocery store because they sold Spam on their shelves.

- I've never heard of friends disagreeing and having a fractured relationship because one liked Spam and one did not.

- I've never seen a petition passed around about Spam nor have I ever heard of a vote being called on Spam.

- To my knowledge, I've never heard of anybody's integrity being called into question because they did or did not like Spam.

- I've never heard of anybody being accused of being less than good, godly, or decent because of their stand on Spam.

- I've never heard of a storeowner being run out of town because of his position on Spam.

- I've never heard of unsigned hate mail being sent because of the Spam issue.

No, I've never heard of these things happening as relates to Spam. Spam seems to fit into the realm of personal opinion, taste, and practice, and we all seem to have the opinion of, "That's okay."

Yet, some or all of the above do apply and action has been taken as relates to the type of music someone likes or uses in church, or the time of the church services, or

the order in which worship activities take place.

Just think through these personal preference kind of issues that have caused people to act, react, and over-react in the strangest ways:

- the location or style of the pulpit.
- the location of musical instruments.
- the choir singing too loud or too soft.
- the pastor preaching too long or too short.
- the color or kind of tie the pastor wears.
- or worse, the fact that the pastor did not wear a tie.
- the church did or did not use commitment cards.
- the temperature was always too cool or too warm.
- they always do the Lord's Supper the same way.
- or, they are constantly changing up the way we do the Lord's Supper.

The list could probably fill up this edition of The Baptist Record, but the point is that there are a multiplicity of things which are not right or wrong, moral or immoral, scriptural or unscriptural. Many of them are just personal preferences that may have taken on the cloak of tradition.

Just keep in mind that when it comes to those things, a little Spam spirituality might not hurt any of us.

'Life' plates upheld in fed court

WASHINGTON (BP) — A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit brought by abortion rights advocates seeking to strike down a Florida law authorizing specialty "Choose Life" license plates — yet claiming their movement deserves some of the profits from the plates over the last two years, CNSNews.com reported July 18.

Federal Judge K. Michael Moore ruled that the plaintiffs lacked standing to challenge the law because they had never applied for their own specialty plate and been denied. He also ruled that striking down the license plate law would "deprive the current speakers, including defendants [Patricia] Morris and [Edwina] Booth, of their rights to free speech as secured by the First Amendment." Morris and Booth, both pro-lifers, pushed for the "Choose Life" license plates.

The "Choose Life" plate is one of more than 30 plates authorized under state law and the most popular specialty plate in Florida. The plate generated more than one million dollars from private fees alone in less than two years of sales. The proceeds will go towards the promotion of adoption.

The Mississippi Legislature approved "Choose Life" plates during the 2002 session.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Bayou View, Gulfport, will celebrate its 45th anniversary on Aug. 18. There will be dinner in the Family Life Center and a concert at 12:45 p.m. For more information, contact the church at (228) 863-4746, or visit their website at bayouview.org. Thomas Mosser is pastor.

Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie, on June 2 celebrated its 150th anniversary with special services and dinner at the church.

Following the services a ground breaking ceremony was held for the new sanctuary building. Pictured (from left) are Chris Nash, music minister; Steve Mayes, pastor; Dwight

Ensign, chairman of deacons; Hal Brumfield, architect; Andy Johns, chairman of the steering committee; Charlie Ward, oldest member present; Knox Ross, deacon and mayor of Pelahatchie.



Ground Breaking Committee of First Church, Pelahatchie

guest speakers. Mon.-Wed., services will be held at 7 p.m. with Ken Anderson, Fred Wolfe, and Lee Kirk, former pastor, nightly. Tommy Sparkman will direct music.

featured speaker will be Jeremy Ellis of Country Woods Church, Jackson. For additional information, contact Emily Tribble at (662) 326-8339 or (662) 934-8110.

Moorhead Church, Moorhead, held Children's Dedication on June 9. Pictured, (from left, front row) are Tiffany Miller Hancock with daughter Jonhayden Hancock; Tony Hancock with son Miller Jackson Hancock; Robin Hobbs with son Payne Allen Hobbs; and Edgar Hobbs, III (Tripp); (back row) Mike Price with son Hunter Allen Price; Allyson Snowden Price with daughter Mallory Crawford Price; Sarah Smith with son Shade Felts Smith; and Paul Smith with daughter Elizabeth Ann Smith.



Participants of Moorhead Church Baby Dedication



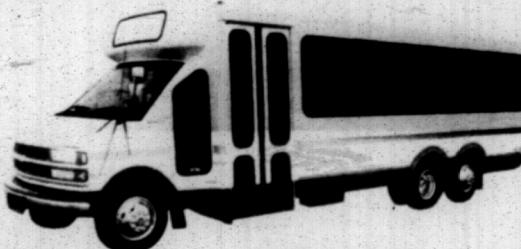
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on the World Wide Web at:
www.mbc.org



Crowder Church, Crowder, will hold a youth conference on Thursday, Aug. 8 through Saturday, Aug. 10, with the theme Soaking Up the Son. The conference begins on Thursday at 7 p.m. and will consist of worship services, small group sessions, and games. Music will be provided by Way of Salvation, a contemporary band from Brookhaven. The



Youth and children of Locust Hill Church, Pontotoc

Youth and children of Locust Hill Church, Pontotoc County, who participated in Bible drills are (front row, from left) Bridgette Fain, Jamie Coltharp, Cassidy Blaylock; (middle row) Justin Werner, Luke Werner, Timothy Fain, John Coltharp; (back row) Matt

Brooks and Grant Werner. Randy Buse is pastor.

Crossview, Brandon, will host Heaven's Grace Quartet of Brandon/Pearl area in a gospel singing July 28 at 6 p.m. For additional information, call Raymond Dyess, at (601) 939-2175.

Evangelism Bible Conference Host Church: FBC Batesville, MS

August 4 - 7, 2002

For more information call

(662) 563-7655.



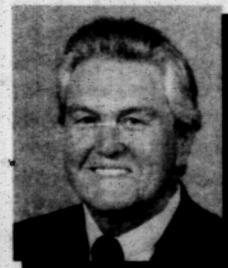
James Messer
James Messer Ministries



Phil Willis
Baton Rouge, LA



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Florida Baptist Convention



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Hartselle, Alabama



Dr. Bob Pitman
Kirby Wood BC
Memphis, Tennessee



Dr. Jim McNeil
St. Louis, Missouri

Sponsored by James E. Messer Ministries

P. O. Box 1325 • Theodore, AL 36590 • 1(800)653-6652

Conference Times: noon daily and 6:30 p.m. nightly

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 25, 2002

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



MEN'S MINISTRY STATE LEADERSHIP TRAINING
AUGUST 16-17, 2002
CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT

There Came A Man

Special Guest Speaker
Rob Carr
Children's Strategist
NAMB

Friday's Featured Speaker
Jim Phillips
Pastor, N. Greenwood Baptist Church
State Director, Fishers of Men

Saturday's Featured Speaker
Barri Shirley
Associate Executive Director
MBCB

Areas of Training
All sessions are designed to equip church leadership to have a more effective program.

- Men's Ministry for Your Local Church
- New Royal Ambassadors Leaders Training
- Experienced Royal Ambassadors Leadership
- Understanding Today's Children
- Royal Ambassador's Special Activities
- Developing Small Groups that Work
- Mission Projects for the Local Church
- Camp Craft Training for Leaders
- Baptist Men on Mission
- Reaching Men Outside Your Church
- Disaster Relief
- Youth Missions for Your Local Church
- Partnership Missions
- Evangelizing Your Community

Schedule

Friday
6:00 pm Registration
6:30 pm Supper
7:30 pm Opening Session

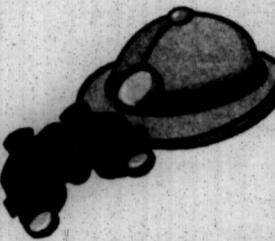
Saturday
7:00 am Breakfast
8:00 am Sessions Begin

Cost
\$20 per person, which includes meals, lodging and all sessions. Each participant should bring linens, sleeping bag and pillow.

For more information, call the MBCB Men's Ministry, 601-292-3334 or 1-800-748-1651

Church Leadership Training

August 9-10, Camp Garaywa



Starts 3:30 p.m. Friday
Ends 1 p.m. Saturday

Sponsored by Mississippi WMU

Theme: "Discovering God's Plan...Exploring My Part"

Over 40 special interest & core conferences for:

- **Ministers' Spouses**
- **Women's Ministry**
- **All Missions Leadership**
- **Pastors**
- **Preschool**
- **Children**
- **Adults**
- **Youth**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 31, 2002

For more information call 601-292-3316 or
1-800-748-1651, ext. 316

This workshop is designed for the Discipleship Training director, the Sunday School director, pastor, minister of education, and associational missions director to learn more about the importance of the Discipleship and Sunday School ministries.

Participants will learn the principles of visionary leadership, along with specifics on how to plan and implement an effective Discipleship and Sunday School ministry in your church.

A meal will be served at no charge. The workshop will follow.

Reservations are required by July 29.

Sunday School Department or Discipleship and Family Ministry Department,
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205, 1 (800) 748-1651 or
(601) 968-3800 locally. Fax: (601) 714-7430

You may register online at www.mbc.org on the Sunday School Department home page.

Sponsored by the
Sunday School Department and the
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and
LifeWay Christian Resources

Sunday School Directors Discipleship Training Directors Dinner and Workshop

**From the Basics to the Advanced
Get a Grip on Your Ministry!**

Tuesday, August 6, 2002
State Boulevard Baptist Church
Meridian, Miss.
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 13, 2002
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Grenada, Miss.
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

No Cost for this Event
But Reservations are Required!

2
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2

Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and Ministry Office SkillShops

September 10-12, 2002
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

If you haven't received your brochure
in the mail, please contact us.

• Professional Certification led by Nancee Ratliff

• SkillShop topics offered this year by Nancy Finn:

DESIGNING PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS – Use the power of your word processing software to design dynamic newsletters, bulletins, and other publications. Designing Professional Publications will teach you formatting, writing, and design principles that will keep your publications on the cutting edge.

UNDERSTANDING MYSELF AND OTHERS – This SkillShop will guide you in becoming the person God intended you to be by introducing your younger self and discovering God's original design. You will learn how your moods affect your emotions. You'll discover your own personality traits and you'll learn how to work with different personalities. You will develop skills to cultivate your potential through acceptance and emotional maturity.

For more information, contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Department (formerly Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries),
Kay McDonnell, 1 (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3305.



Growing in God's Spirit

2002

Preschool/Children's
Choir Leadership Training
Cost: \$5 per person

Saturday, August 17.....FBC, Hattiesburg
Saturday, August 24FBC, Madison
Saturday, August 24..Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

Registration: 9-9:30 a.m.
Conference: 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
No preregistration required

Featuring the fall graded choir literature.
All directors and teachers are encouraged to attend.

For more information, call
the Church Music Department
1 (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3271

Pastor and Wife Retreat

August 8-10, 2002
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Leaders

Glen Putnam is the pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Ark., and former staff counselor for Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis. His doctoral research was on ministry marriages. He is well-qualified to guide our retreat because of his vast pastoral ministry, extensive counseling experiences and support to ministers and their families.

Steve Walker, music evangelist from Pinola, will lead music in our worship times.

Purpose

To provide a time of encouragement, inspiration and fellowship for pastors and wives.

Childcare

Supervised care will be made available for preschoolers, children and youth.

Cost

2 nights lodging and 6 meals:

- Adults: \$90 per person
- Ages 12 & up: \$53.25 per person
- Ages 2-11: \$31.65 per person
- Age 2 and under: no cost

There is no conference fee.

Scholarships

Scholarships of \$50 per pastor are available.

For more information

For more information, contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Department (formerly Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries)

Matt Buckles, director

Keith Gordon, consultant

Kay McDonnell, ministry assistant

1 (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3305

One Voice in Worship
August 18

Fairview BC
Columbus, 7 p.m.



No More Playing Dress-Up... It's a Matter of the Heart.

2002 Discipleship Training Directors Dinner and Workshop

**From the Basics to the Advanced
Get a Grip on Your Ministry!**

FBC Baptist
New Albany
New Albany
October 26, 2002

FBC Baptist
Crystal Springs
Crystal Springs
October 26, 2002

Gulfshore Baptist
Assembly
Pass Christian
Pass Christian
October 26, 2002

No Cost for this Event, But Reservations are Required!

Sponsored by the
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

"...Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7

Preregistration Form Discipleship Training Directors Workshop

Name _____
Day Phone Number _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ St _____ Zip _____
Church _____
Association _____

I serve as:

- Associational Missions Director
- Associational Discipleship Training Director
- Discipleship Training Director
- Pastor
- Minister of Education
- Other

I will attend the workshop at:

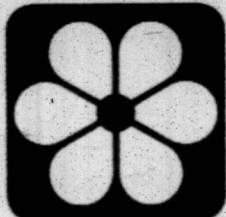
- FBC, New Albany
- FBC, Crystal Springs
- Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

**Preregister
by
July 29
2002**

Complete and return to the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

Contact information:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205
1-800-748-1651 or (601) 968-3800 locally
Fax: (601) 714-7432



Statewide Woman's Retreat God's Plan...My Part In Every Season of a Woman's Life

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Friday, October 4, 3 p.m. – Saturday, October 5, 3 p.m.

*Featuring Testimonies and *Breakout Sessions by:*

SPRING: LAUREN WELLS

Richton, Miss.

*Involving Young Women in God's Plan



SUMMER: LAURA SAVAGE

Women's Consultant WMU, SBC

*Developing a Biblical Vision for Your Women's Groups
*Just Do It – Locally and Globally

MABEL AND EDITH: McComb, Miss.

Sisters Who Care Testimonies

DIANE GARCIA: Language Consultant, WMU, SBC

Hispanic Conferences

BECKY BROWN: *The Greatest Kids I Never Had...Mentoring

TAMMY ANDERSON: *Let's Have a Party!

AUDREY HECTOR: *Forgiving...Healing the Broken Heart

DEBORA JOINER: *Sisters Who Care Training

MARGARET ANN FORTENBERRY:

**Off the Prayer Calendar Into Your Heart*

PRAISE AND WORSHIP LED BY KAREN HARDY

Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn.



FALL: LAURA LEATHERS

Hidden Treasures Ministries, Pickens, Miss.

*Building Your Leadership Skills

WINTER: GLORIA THURMAN

Missionary, Bangladesh & New York, Columbia, Miss.

*Missions is Not a Foreign Word



Plan ahead for the 2003 State Evangelism Conference, January 27-28
Harrisburg BC, Tupelo, featuring Jaye Martin, Women's Consultant, NAMB



REGISTER with Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Phone: (228) 452-7261 FAX: (228) 452-7263

COST: \$52.50 (all-inclusive); \$32.50 (conference/meals only);

\$13 (commuter)

FOR INFO: Mississippi WMU, (601) 968-3800 or 1 (800) 748-1651

Pray this day for...

July 26 - August 8, 2002

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1 (800) 787-7729 (PRAY)

A Prayer: 'Lord, help us, as Your people, to overcome evil with good and to overcome hate with love.'

Woody Parker, Editor of Open Windows

A Ukrainian evangelist reports that a new generation is starting to evangelize Russia by planting many new growing churches. Slavik Radchuk recently addressed 700 church leaders in Moscow. When he asked those over 60 years old to stand, only seven stood up; the rest were 30-50 years old. Pray that the churches will continue to grow even under persecution.

Major General William Boykin, commander of the Army's Special Forces school in Fort Bragg, N.C. said, "It will take prayer to defeat those who want to destroy the United States. We've got to defeat them on our knees. Pray for our leaders and our nation. God will answer the prayers of those who humble themselves before Him."

For: (1) Social Issues Emphasis: Human Rights (CAC Emphasis); (2) Pray for the missionaries who participate on the Nicodemus Team in Bogota, Colombia; Karl and Peggy Wallace and Kevin Gill. Think of difficulties they might encounter - personal and work related and ask that God pour out His Spirit on them.

Home Internet usage in China has soared to 56.6 million people. China is now second only to the United States in the number of residents who access the Web from their homes. Pray that the millions of those viewing Web sites will be drawn to the many Christian sites that are offered and that many will come to know the Savior.

Missionaries Hal and Brenda Hostetler share this continuing prayer request: "That the Trinidadian government allow us a visa for another 18 months so we can finish discipling music leaders in Trinidad and new church Christians in Sangre Grande. The request has thus far languished in government offices since last October."

For: Sunday School/Discipleship Training Director Training, State Boulevard BC, Meridian (SS/D&FM); (2) Pray today for President Rafael Hipolito Mejia Dominguez of the Dominican Republic (island southeast of Cuba).

Join with journeyman Rebekah Johnson in thanking God for the core group of three teenage girls that He has given in her ministry in the interior city of Melo, Uruguay. Pray for Rebekah and two "winter" student workers, Tiffany and Mariana, as they continue to disciple these girls.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS 7-9; (2) Taiwan is experiencing the worst drought in 20 years. Please pray that the Taiwan Christians would be bold in sharing their faith in the One True God and demonstrate His power in their lives. Recently, some local government leaders have resorted to idol worship, including animal sacrifices, to bring rain.

Please lift up this need: A Turkish seeker living in the United Kingdom was rejected following his second appeal for political asylum. Difficult circumstances in his homeland complicate the possibility of his returning there. Pray that the words of life will be clearly communicated to this young man before he is deported.

For: (1) New Staff Day, Baptist Building & FBC, Jackson (CG); (2) Pastors and Wives Conference, Gulfshore, Pass Christian (P/LD); (3) Please pray today for President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt (northeastern Africa).

For: (1) Mother/Son Weekend Camp, Central Hills, Kosciusko (MM); (2) Danny Hartwell of Nixa, Mo., is on the ministry evangelism team in the areas of multi-housing and resort work. Pray for churches to discover ministry possibilities, and for the training of youth leaders who are bringing youth mission teams to Branson for the summer.

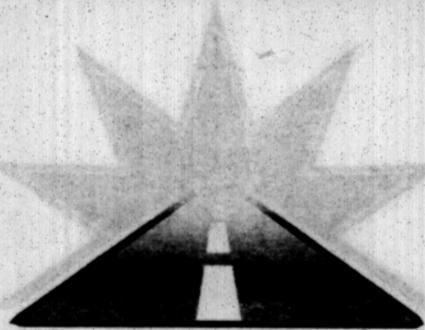
For: (1) IV Centrifuge, 27-Aug. 1 (LCR/SBC); (2) International Missions' Week, Ridgecrest, N.C., July 27-Aug. 2 (IMB); (3) Please pray today for Prime Minister Konstandinos Simitis of Greece (southern Europe).

There are more than 1,200 unreached Muslim people groups in the world. The vast majority do not have the Bible available in their language. Ask God to guide, enable and protect current Bible translation projects for Muslim people groups. Pray that God's Word will be available to these Muslim groups.

January Bible Study Preview Clinics 2002

"Helping Your Church Stay on Course: Studies in I Corinthians"

**Conference Leader:
Gene Henderson
Pastor, FBC, Brandon**



Locations:

September 23
September 24
September 25
September 26

Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain
Delta State BSU, Cleveland
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson
William Carey College, Hattiesburg

Conference Times (all locations):

9 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
9:30-2:30 p.m.

Registration/Refreshments
Conference
Complimentary lunch will be provided

Sponsored by: Sunday School Dept., Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

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Parents: Timothy & Janet
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9/95
MISS EMILY HEWITT
Parents: Earl & Ramona, Medicine

16/86
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Parents: Michael & Patricia, Church Planting

17/91
MISS LOREN M. FOSTER
Parents: Michael & Miranda, Strategy

21/92
MR. DERRICK A. DEMARS
Parents: Guy & Cindy
Community Development

22/87
MR. KYLE JONES
Parents: Mike & Pam, Church Planting

25/79
MR. RYAN R. KYZAR
Parents: John & Melinda, Strategy

27/83
MISS AMY K. LEE
Parents: Henry & Linda, Church Planting

For security, cards
will be forwarded.
Please send all to:

Child's name and
parent's name
International Mission Board
P.O. Box 6767
Richmond, VA 23230-8767

HOUSE TOPS

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Mark Parnell, associate pastor, First Church, Kosciusko, was recognized in the morning worship service on June 30 for five years of dedicated ministry. Following the evening service, the Parnell family was honored with a reception in the church parlor. Pictured (from left) are Nathan, Kayla, Rachel, Treva, and Mark Parnell. Barry C. Corbett is pastor.

Tommy Broom was ordained to the ministry, June 23, at Society Hill Church, Oakvale. Participating were Glenn Nelson, former pastor; Matt Buckles,



Parnell Family

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; O. J. Seals, East Columbia Church; Mark McArthur, Goss Church; Benji Lott and Darlene May, special music.

Amy Jo Purl, currently living in Burkina Faso where she serves as an IMB missionary, received her doctorate of philosophy in francophone studies from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, on May 17.

Ola Johnston (left) Women on Missions group facilitator was honored for 45 years of service as an officer/leader in Women Mission Organizations at First Church, Pascagoula. Dean Coulter (right) is the Women on Missions group coordinator.



Johnston and Coulter

VBS NEWS

The children of Vacation Bible School at **Gray's Creek Church, Hernando**, are pictured with their teachers.

The children of Vacation Bible School at **East Fork Church, Liberty**, are pictured with Terry L. Vandeventer, who is an expert in the field of herpetology and a guide to the Amazon rain forest of Peru.

Vacation Bible School was held at **Society Hill Church, Oakvale**, June 3-7, in unison



VBS Participants of Gray's Creek Church, Hernando

HOECOMINGS

Cascilla, Cascilla: Aug. 4; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; The Kilgore Sisters and Ricky and Cheryl Martin will bring the music for the afternoon; Thomas Bruce, pastor.

Antioch, Columbus: July 28; services, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch; afternoon praise service.

Whitesand, Prentiss: Aug. 11; 10:30 a.m., noon meal in fellowship hall; Carey Bass, guest speaker; Dale Townsend, music; Stan Cheatham, pastor.

First, Ridgeland: 55th anniversary; Aug. 25; Sunday School, 8:45 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., with a fellowship meal following; Ed Griffin, message; Grant Arinder, pastor.

Lakeview, Leland: 50th anniversary; Sept. 22; service, 10 a.m.; dinner; and afternoon singing; S. B. Boyett, pastor.



VBS Participants of East Fork Church, Liberty

NEW

Testimony
IN HIS OWN WORDS...

DER • THE GIFT
TABLE
467-7763

Evangelism Bible Conference

Host Church: FBC Batesville, MS

August 4 - 7, 2002

Featured Speakers: noon session - James Messer
6:30 p.m. sessions - Dr. John Sullivan, Dr. Junior Hill,
Dr. Bob Pitman, & Dr. Jim McNeil.

For more information call (662) 563-7655.
Sponsored by James E. Messer Ministries.

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Staff Changes



Randy Von Kanel has been called to First Church, Tupelo, as pastor. He presently serves as executive director of Global Outreach International based in Tupelo. He will assume duties at the 152-year-old church in August.

Union Church, Tylertown, has called Millard Moak as pastor, effective June 1. A native of Lincoln County, Moak received his education at New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was New Hope Church, Meadville.

Faith Church, Jackson, has called John B. Howell as minister for outreach activities and the homebound, effective July 8. Howell is a graduate of Mississippi College. Greg Wolfe is pastor.

Jan Halford, former youth, senior adult, and education minister has resigned from her position of nine years from Calvary Church, Jackson. She will follow God's leadership into full-time music evangelism and ventriloquism. Halford is available for conferences, revivals, and special events. She can be reached at (601) 927-3899 or by e-mail at MBSingles@aol.com.

Society Hill Church, Oakvale, has called Benji Lott as minister of music. Tommy Broom is pastor.

Weir, Weir: July 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Forest, evangelist; Jim Pender, pastor.

Hopewell, Lake: July 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Greg Renfroe, evangelist; Danny Harrison, music; Anthony Bowen, pastor.

Double Springs, Maben: July 28-Aug. 2; services, Sun.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Billy Hester, Maben, music; services, Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m.; Julie McCool, Eupora, music; Argile Smith, Poplarville, evangelist; John S. Foles, pastor.

Midway, Jackson: Aug. 4-7; Sunday, regular times; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Charles Gentry, preaching; Tom Larrimore, music; guest personalities are Phil Dixon, Kaylon Winstead, Senator Richard White, and Sheriff Malcolm McMillin.

Camp Ground, Water Valley: Aug. 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sat., Aug. 3, 6 p.m., The Southern Image Quartet, Tupelo; Glen Davis, Sumrall, guest speaker; Bennett Mixon, music; Emon White, pastor.

Wheeler Grove (Alcorn): Aug. 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rick Coram, Ocala, Fla., evangelist; Kara Blackard, pastor.

Elmo, (Jefferson): July 28-

31; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Wiley B. Reid, Franklin County, guest speaker; Karen Hardy, Nashville, Tenn., music.

Friendship, Aberdeen: Aug. 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Millikin, Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, Tenn., evangelist; Bill Monaghan, Amory, music; Todd Bowen, pastor.

Antioch, Brandon: July 28-31; Sunday, homecoming, 10:30 a.m. and noon meal; Marion Spence, Baskin, La., guest speaker; Natali Duncan, Salem Church, music; revival, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., Steve Wilson, evangelist; Thurs. and Fri., Anthony Kay, evangelist; Curtis Carter, music.

Cascilla, Cascilla: Aug. 18-21; 7 p.m.; Harvey Reeves, guest speaker; Duke and Linda Barnes, music; Thomas Bruce, pastor.

Hopewell, McCool: Aug. 4-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Bobby Waggoner, Attala Association, speaker; Tommy Allen, pastor.

Society Hill, Oakvale: Aug. 4-9; homecoming, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Gospel Sing will be in the evening service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; John Nix, evangelist; Mark King, Oloh, music; Tommy Broom, pastor.

Ludlow, Ludlow: July 28-

Aug. 2; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., noon meal in fellowship hall, and 1:15 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jerry Mixon, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; John Alumbough, Forest, music; M. L. Wallace, pastor.

Concord, Yazoo City: Aug. 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal in fellowship hall, and afternoon service; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Ken Rhodes, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; John Yates, music; James F. Yates, pastor.

Dublin, Carson: July 28-31; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch; and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Grenn, North Columbia Church, speaker; Steve Walker, Pinola, music; Pat Nations, pastor.

New Hope, Foxworth: July 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch in gym, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene

Douglas, evangelist; Bo Parker, music.

Mt. Pleasant (Smith): July 28-Aug. 2; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., lunch at church, and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Tim Robinson, evangelist; Latrelle Crumpton, music; Carey Bass, pastor.

First Church of McLaurin, Hattiesburg: Aug. 4-9; Sunday, homecoming service, 11 a.m., and 6 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; David Streck, Purvis, evangelist; Philip Butler, Sumrall, music; Johnny Breazeale, pastor.

Liberty, Carrollton: Aug. 4-7; Bob Self, Grenada, evangelist; Andy Cummings, Grenada, music; Riley Ainsworth, pastor.

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September 20 - 21

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HOMECOMING - Leland, Lakeview Baptist Church' 50th Anniversary Sunday, September 22, 2002; services begin at 10 a.m., dinner and afternoon singing, S.B. Boyett, Pastor.	
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HUBER HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH in Dayton, Ohio is seeking a full-time minister of music. Candidates should have a masters degree in music and be committed to leading a blended style of worship in multiple services. Resumes should be sent to the following address: Huber Heights FBC, c/o Personnel Committee, 5310 Packard Dr., Huber Heights, OH 45424.	

BOLDLY PROCLAIM

Editor:

Why is it that candidly speaking the truth is so often condemned these days? I refer to the editorial in the June 20 issue of *The Baptist Record* (*Dangerous words, for what purpose?*). It seems that we Baptists have bought into this political correctness craze much to our detriment. Perhaps that is what's wrong with the institutional church. We try so hard not to offend someone or some group we don't take a stand against anything, regardless of how evil or sinful it may be. There isn't any way to sugar-coat sin and I applaud Jerry Vines for his courage and boldness to preach the truth.

I agree that someone will be offended. However, if more of us boldly proclaimed the truth it would have the positive affect of influencing many from becoming involved in those things in the first place.

If there has been expansive and successful evangelistic ministries among Muslims as you say, I am encouraged and thankful. Tell us about those sometimes in *The Baptist Record*. My impression has been the very opposite of that. Mostly I have heard and read of how difficult it is to reach them with the Gospel.

Barney Smith Jr.
Columbia

GIVE ACCOUNT

Editor:

One of the foundation stones of Southern Baptists has been the Priesthood of the Believer. Each believer had direct access to the throne of God. We are reminded again and again that each of us will give an account of himself/herself to God.

In a day when administrators, professors, instructors, missionaries, etc., are being required to sign various statements, articles, and vows, do we need to be asking to whom we are being asked to be accountable? Accountability is vital for all of us, but ultimately where does our main accountability rest?

Who is the true Owner of our institutions, boards, buildings, churches, organizations, and all

assets? Who has given Southern Baptists the vast ministries to which we presently have access? Accountability is good, but do we need to take another hard look at trust and accountability?

All God's children have been uniquely designed by our Heavenly Father with individual gifts, talents, and callings. We must be extremely careful not to hinder the breathing of the Holy Spirit as he directs the creativity of each person who cooperatively seeks to advance his Kingdom. Is there some wild vision that the day will come when church staffers, Sunday School teachers, leaders and committee members will be signing Articles of Ultimatum? Are we needing another Reformation?

Each believer has direct access to God. Each believer, called to be a child of God, called to a specific vocation, will ultimately give an account of himself/herself to God.

Carl Hudson
Jackson

DON'T BE NEGATIVE

Editor:

Nine times out of ten I find myself in hearty concurrence with *The Baptist Record* editorials. They are generally thoughtful, insightful, relevant, and reflective of the evangelical imperative. You do a commendable job. I take issue with one small but significant item.

I would not draw a correlation between attendance at the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting and honest interest in the Kingdom work in which we are all a part. During the days of conflict there were massive crowds which may be more indicative of various interests protecting their turf than a love for Christ's Kingdom.

Those who are committed to evangelism, church planting, biblical morality, and the integrity of God's Word will still attend when possible. The high cost and fear of air travel probably discourages some. Let's not be quite so negative about the great people who call themselves Southern Baptists.

Thomas M. Atwood, pastor
First Church, Oxford

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC sought by church averaging 110 in Sunday School. Please e-mail resume to mwsjg@vicksburg.com or fax to (601) 636-7574 or mail to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

MINISTER OF STUDENTS NEEDED with some musical background preferred. Full-time position. Send resume to: North Winona Baptist Church, 602 Alberta Drive, Winona, MS 38967 or fax to (662) 283-5004.

POSITION AVAILABLE FOR PIANIST at Lakeshore Baptist Church, Jackson. Phone: (601) 373-6677.

BRIAR HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Florence, MS, is seeking a God-called man for pastor. If you feel that God may be leading you please contact the church office at (601)

845-6843, and we will send you a summary description of the church, after which you may submit a resume if you feel led to consider this place of service.

TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH located 12 miles south of Monticello is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Primary responsibilities include directing music during regular worship services, and special music/drama presentations during the year. Send resumes to: Topeka Baptist Church, 807 China Grove Road, Jayess, MS 39641.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, Lauderdale Association is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. For more information please call the church office at (601) 693-4490 or send information to: New Hope Baptist Church 6573 Hwy 145 South, Meridian, MS 39301.

ANNIVERSARIES PLANNED

Editor:

On Oct. 27, Cruger Church in Cruger, will celebrate its 100th anniversary. It is our desire to contact as many former pastors and members as possible. This information is needed as soon as possible in order to complete the plans for the celebration. Please contact me at (662) 453-0009 or Mary Lee Gordon, P. O. Box 185, Cruger, MS 38924, telephone: (662) 453-4913.

Freddie Matthews, pastor
Cruger Church, Cruger

Editor:

Bellevue Church, located at 7173 Highway 98 West in Hattiesburg, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on Nov. 10. All past members are encouraged to contact the church to be placed on the mailing list for the anniversary events. We want to make this day a very special event. Please contact me at (601) 264-7699 or e-mail: Bellevuebchrch@aol.com.

Mavis McGuffee
Hattiesburg

Editor:

Bayou View Church in Gulfport will celebrate their 45th anniversary on Aug. 18. You are invited to join in the celebration. There will be dinner in the Family Life Center and a concert at 12:45 p.m. For more information, contact the church at (228) 863-4746, or visit our web site at bayouview.org.

Thomas Mosser, pastor
Bayou View Church
Gulfport

PIVOTAL PRINCIPLE

Editor:

In Point/Counterpoint on April 18, a pivotal principle invoking God's future blessing or judgment is accountability. Jesus stated the principle in Luke 12:45, "To whom much is given, much is required." Until recent eras, Baptists largely upheld a Biblical balance between autonomy and accountability.

Some seem to conclude church autonomy assures irrevocable denominational membership void of Baptist accountability, deeming a whole denomina-

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tion obligated to support those embracing membership right, while claiming personal liberties infringed by merely evidencing kindred spirit with the distinctive Biblical beliefs historically common to the denomination they freely chose.

Every human being including Baptists bears eternal accountability solely to God and his Word, divinely granted earthly free will to practice as we choose within Biblically lawful parameters, but when we embrace a specific denomination for membership and support, we also principally accept accountability to their shared beliefs!

Each individual and church choosing Baptist affiliation remains autonomously free to refuse our shared Biblical beliefs, realizing they also principally refuse denominational membership and support. By contrasting nature and definition, creedalism through hierarchy imposes church excommunication upon dogma recantors and even contends excommunication from salvation itself.

Jesus reminded "Every house divided against itself shall not stand," Matt. 12:25, perhaps convicting the apparent assertion of membership without accountability and his imperative for our denomination and news sources to restore accountability to Biblical Baptist doctrine for membership privilege and publication.

Stephen G. Forfer
Forest

LIFE'S ERASER

Editor:

We, senior adults, remember the old school chalkboards and the erasers. Taped into the front of one of my books is a cartoon of Dennis the Menace wishing that life came with an eraser. Real, genuine Christians know that life does come with an eraser and the eraser has the name of Jesus written on the back of it. This eraser wipes out all kinds of errors, sins, and mistakes in relationship to God and man.

Forgiveness is a very hard concept for many Christians and for billions of people outside Christian teaching and love.

The eraser is there, and we must pass the word along to cleanse our sin and bring peace and joy into people's lives. Jesus' grace is not cheap; he wants us to go and sin no more.

Billy R. Mathis
Hattiesburg



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

Evangelism Bible Conference

Host Church: FBC Batesville, MS

August 4 - 7, 2002

Featured Speakers: noon session - James Messer
6:30 p.m. sessions - Dr. John Sullivan, Dr. Junior Hill,
Dr. Bob Pitman, & Dr. Jim McNeil.

For more information call (662) 563-7655.
Sponsored by James E. Messer Ministries.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

God wants me to be under control

Daniel 1:1-15

By Ruth V. Gamble

This week's lesson is about self-control/temperance, the ninth fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. The Old Testament character study is about the young man Daniel and poses a question each of us must answer: "Who controls my life?" Our answer defines our worldview, shapes our philosophy, and influences our behavior and relationships.

In 605 BC Nebuchadnezzar, a feared and powerful king of Babylon, invaded Jerusalem, plundering the Temple, and taking many captives. Two other invasions occurred before the southern kingdom of Judah fell completely to Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC. The victorious Babylonians took the finest, most gifted youth to Babylon for training to serve in the king's court.



Gamble

Nebuchadnezzar ordered court officials to bring Israelites, "young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well-informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace" (Daniel 1:3-4). Daniel and three teenage friends, Shadrack, Meshach, and Abednego were selected for a three-year training period. New Babylonian names with references to Babylonian gods were assigned to them. They were to be taught the language and literature of Babylon, and probably the religion of Marduk, the primary Babylonian god. The special honor of "a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table" was to be given to them.

What were they to do? Would their early teaching from The Law fortify them for this tempta-

tion? To whom would they have to answer? Not parents or teachers; they were teenagers, captives in a foreign culture. It would be easy to accept their captors' plan, but Daniel knew the king's rations had been part of pagan idol worship. Partaking would have amounted to his approval of pagan worship. The food was also "unclean" according to Israel's dietary laws. Daniel had "resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine!" Rather than compromise his convictions, Daniel used great self-control and courage, refusing that which was wrong for him and displeasing to God. Taking this stand honored an earlier life-long commitment. Anticipating our future temptations and making a spiritual commitment in advance is a key to successfully meeting temptations.

Our present day teaching, "Just say no to drugs" is an example of pre-commitment. Someone has said that temptation is using God-driven drives, such as hunger, desire to

succeed, or sex, in a God-displeasing way. The first chapters in Daniel tell of his wisdom in reasoning with his captors, and that God ultimately honored him by raising him to a high position in the Babylonian kingdom.

In the secular worldview, man considers himself in control. Happiness is found in over-indulgence and excesses, viewed as rights and privileges. It's a "me first, last, and always" attitude which desires immediate gratification. The secular Humanist Manifesto I sums up this worldview saying: "man alone is responsible for the realization of the world of his dreams ... he has within himself the power for achievement."

The Christian worldview realizes that the Holy Spirit empowers us to exercise discipline, restraint, and self-control so that our God-given drives serve and honor our Lord.

The Greek word for self-control used by Paul is also translated "temperance" and refers to one's mastery over passions and desires. These words are not used in the

story of Daniel, but the idea is clearly displayed.

The virtue is also taught in the New Testament. In 1 Corinthians 9 Paul explains how he controlled his actions so that he "might by all means save some." The Corinthians were also faced with the same problem Daniel had -- eating food offered to idols. Paul warns them to take heed lest their "liberty" (lack of self-control) became a stumbling block to the weak. Paul's decision was: "If what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again" (1 Corinthians 8:13). Peter also included "self-control" in his description of virtues which should characterize Christians (2 Peter 1:6).

This is the final study of Old Testament characters who demonstrated the fruit of the Spirit. Is your spiritual fruit basket filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control? It is? Then enjoy!

Gamble is a member of Slayden Church, Slayden.

We must keep two things in mind. The first is that God's word is unchangeable and always comes to pass. All that God said to David happened! As God's protective hand was partially removed, David experienced the discipline of God and found what it is like to be without his shield over him.

We see "unbridled ambition's damage" as the fallout from the rebellion begins. David's next few actions demonstrate that he still is a man who trusts God. He rejects the priests' attempts to attach the Ark of the Covenant to David, but places himself at the mercy of God, saying, "Return the ark of God to the city. If I find favor in the sight of the Lord, then he will bring me back again."

David's trust in God is also revealed when he hears of Ahithophel's betrayal. David counts on the counsel of Hushai and the intervention of the Lord to make Ahithophel's counsel foolishness. God honors David's prayer in 17:14 by restoring his protective favor to David and confounding the counsel of Ahithophel. God's promise concerning David's wives occurs in 16:20-23. All has now come to pass except the sword!

Walker is pastor of Parkway Church, Natchez.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Unbridled Ambition

2 Samuel 15: 1 - 17:29

By Bart Walker

It is impossible to grasp the meaning of the events of chapters 15 through 17 without looking back at the specific prophecy given by God through Nathan to David concerning the future of David's kingdom and family. What we see as we read in these three chapters is a step-by-step fulfillment of the fourfold promise God made to David (one of the four, the death of the child, had already occurred). Let's refresh ourselves concerning the three remaining promises: 1) The sword shall never depart from your house. 2) I will raise up evil against you from your own household. 3) I will even take your wives before your eyes, and give

them to your companion, and he shall lie with your wives in broad daylight.

In God's raising up "evil", allowing the "sword" to be present and "taking" David's wives is not an act of evil in itself, but a partial removal of the gracious covering God has placed over his servants in order that evil temporarily prevails.

We see this begin with "unbridled ambition's methods" in Absalom's pursuit of the throne of David. With his sights set on further undermining his father's already weakened reign, Absalom uses four tools to steal the hearts of the men of Israel. The first tool is raising his own profile. With horses, chariots, and runners he takes on stately splendor so that he is attractive in the eyes of those who see him in

town. The second tool is casting doubt on the current administration. As he talks with the men of Israel he implies that king David did not care for their circumstances. The third tool is implying that he can resolve their problems. As he talks with the men of Israel he offers himself as one who would restore the cause of personal justice to the kingdom of Israel. His fourth and final tool is false humility. Hidden in his heart was prideful ambition to overthrow his own father, but on the outside was a false humility.

In 15:7-12 we see Absalom making his move toward kingship in a deceitful story of intended worship in Hebron. He uses the political stronghold of Hebron as the launching place of his rebellion. He builds his coalition with Ahithophel, David's chief counselor (who probably joined forces with Absalom because of disgust over the handling of the Bathsheba situation; he was her grandfather!) Israel, partially because of



Walker

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

THE BAPTIST Record

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mcb.org.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES



Christian Living

Volume 2

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Issue 7

Fax: (601) 292-3350

Loving Our Neighbor Includes Loving Our Children

By Lee Yancey
Consultant

"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father in heaven" (Matthew 18:10).

"A person's a person no matter how small" was Dr. Seuss' famous line in the book, *Horton Hears a Who*. Every person has value and should be treated with respect. Jesus demonstrated to his disciples that children were of the utmost importance to him by saying "Permit the little children to come to me, and do not hinder them, for of such is the Kingdom of heaven." When children are mistreated someone has to speak for them, protect them. In Mississippi alone, the statistics are staggering. In the year 2000, there were 900 substantiated physical abuse cases, more than 1,700 neglect cases, 110 abuse and neglect, 899 sexual abuse cases, and 74 children suffered both emotional abuse and neglect according to an article on WLBT.com (April 26, 2002). In fact, child abuse is one of the top three causes of death in children and youth under 15 (after guns and motor vehicles). According to the Mississippi Family Council, parental abuse of children under 10 years old is up to 40 times more likely with a stepparent in the home than with two biological parents. Non-parental abuse is 5 times as likely in a single-parent home as in a two-parent home, with most of that abuse committed by the mother's boyfriend. If you know or suspect that a child is being abused, would you anonymously call 1-800-222-8000? Please help make the difference in a child's life. Give a little girl or boy the chance to grow up in a safe and healthy environment.



Yancey

What happens when I call in a report?

When a report is received, an investigation begins within 24-48 hours depending on the type of report. First the child is seen and interviewed privately. Then every member of the household is seen and interviewed privately. At least one non-family member (teacher, doctor, etc.) who knows the child is interviewed. When facts back up an abuse report the Department will make a report to the district attorney within 72 hours. The district attorney determines whether criminal charges can be filed.

How old must a child be to be left alone at home?

It depends on each individual child's maturity.



Questions and Answers

What is an abused child?

During the 1996 Session of the Mississippi Legislature, the definition of an abused child was amended in Section 43-21-105(m), Mississippi Code of 1972, to read as follows: "Abused child" means a child whose parent, guardian or custodian or any person responsible for his care or support, whether legally obligated to do so or not, has caused or allowed to be caused upon said child sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, emotional abuse, mental injury, non-accidental physical injury or other maltreatment. Provided, however, that physical discipline (not to include any form of sexual abuse) performed on a child by a parent, guardian or custodian shall only be deemed to be abuse under this paragraph when a licensed physician has determined that physical injury has occurred. "Sexual abuse"

Who may report a suspected case of child abuse?

Anybody.

Do people who are reporting a suspected case of child abuse have to identify themselves?

No.

What will happen if you know of abuse and don't report it?

Upon being found guilty, the individual shall be punished by a fine not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or by imprisonment in jail not to exceed one (1) year, or both. Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated Section 43-21-353(7).

What are some indicators of abuse?

Physical Abuse: unexplained bruises,

welts, human bite marks, bald spots; unexplained burns, cigarette or immersion burns; unexplained fractures, lacerations, or abrasions.

Neglect Abuse: abandonment; unattended medical needs; consistent lack of supervision; consistent hunger; inappropriate dress; and poor hygiene.

Sexual Abuse: torn, stained or bloody underclothing; pain or itching in the genital area; difficulty walking or sitting; bruises or bleeding in the external genitalia; venereal disease; frequent urinary or yeast infections.

Emotional Abuse: speech disorders; delayed physical development; substance abuse; increased severity in existing conditions.

VICTIMS OF MALTREATMENT

Nationally, approximately 879,000 children were found to be victims of child maltreatment. Maltreatment categories typically include neglect, medical neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and psychological maltreatment. Almost two-thirds of child victims (63%) suffered neglect (including medical neglect); 19 percent were physically abused; 10 percent were sexually abused; and 8 percent were psychologically maltreated.

The rate of child victims per 1,000 children in the population had been decreasing steadily from 15.3 victims per 1,000 children in the population in 1993 to 11.8 victims per 1,000 children in the population in 1999. The victimization rate increased slightly to 12.2 per 1,000 children in the year 2000. Whether or not this is a trend cannot be determined until additional data are collected.

Victimization rates declined as age increased. The rate of victimization for children in the age group of birth to 3 years old was 15.7 victims per 1,000 children of the same age. The rate of victimization for children ages 16 and 17 was 5.7 victims per 1,000 children of the same age in the population. Victimization rates were similar for male and female victims (11.2

and 12.8 per 1,000 children respectively) except for victims of sexual abuse. The rate for sexual abuse was 1.7 victims per 1,000 female children compared to 0.4 victims per 1,000 male children.

More than half of all victims were White (51%); a quarter (25%) were African American; 15 percent were Hispanic. American Indian/Alaska Natives accounted for 2 percent of victims, and Asian/Pacific Islanders accounted for 1 percent of victims.

PERPETRATORS

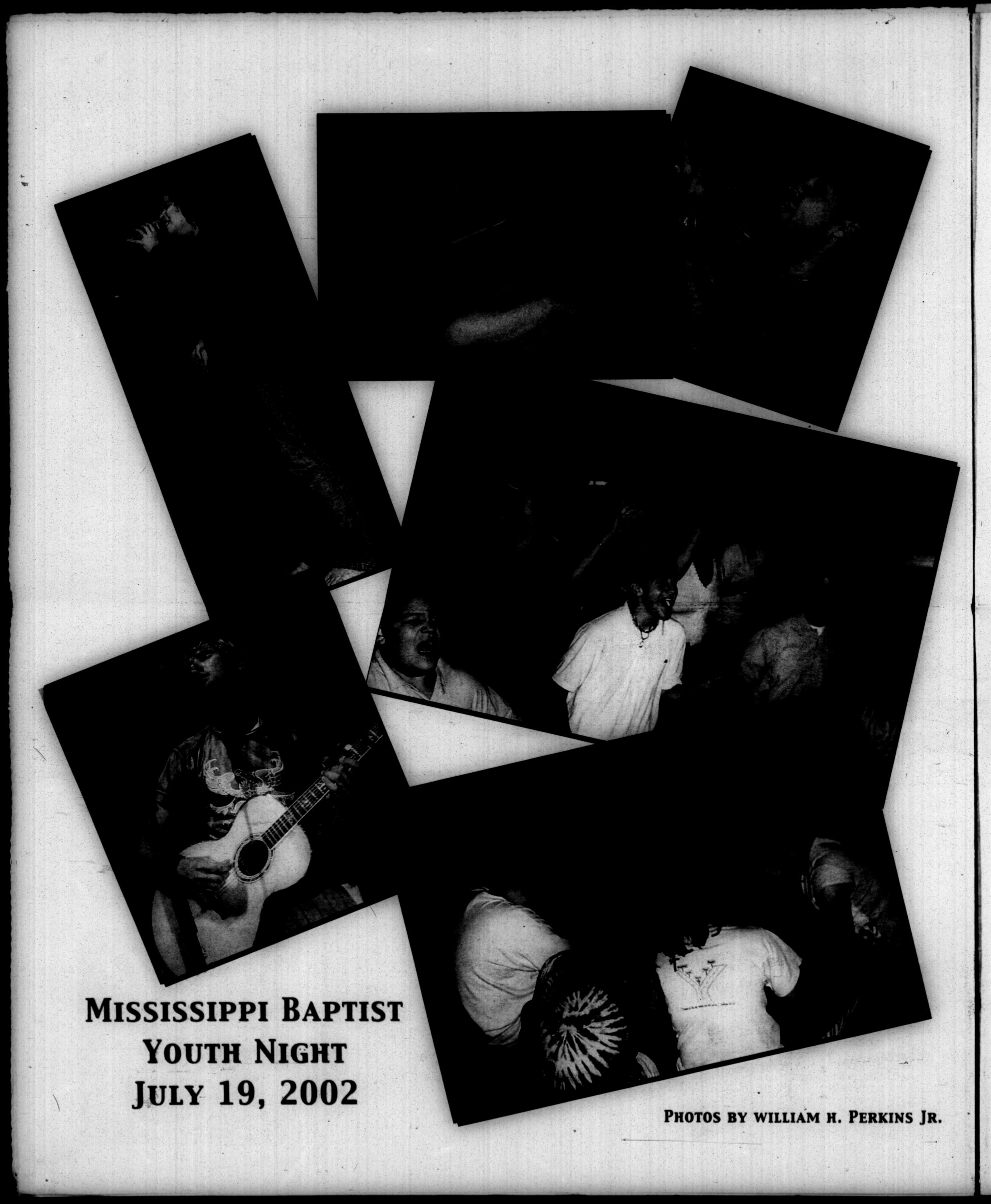
Most States define perpetrators of child abuse or neglect as parents and other caretakers, such as relatives, babysitters, and foster parents, who have maltreated a child. Sixty percent of perpetrators were females and 40 percent were males. The median age of female perpetrators was 31 years; the median age of male perpetrators was 34 years.

More than 80 percent of victims (84%) were abused by a parent or parents. Mothers acting alone were responsible for 47 percent of neglect victims and 32 percent of physical abuse victims. Nonrelatives, fathers acting alone, and other relatives were responsible for 29 percent, 22 percent and 19 percent, respectively, of sexual abuse victims.

SUMMARY

Child abuse and neglect continues to be a significant problem in the United States. These statistics can help us understand the scope of the problem, who is affected, and what type of services are being provided by State and local agencies. Source: Children's Bureau Administration on Children, Youth and Families: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDA) Summary of Key Findings from Calendar Year 2000, April 2002.

If you are interested in receiving Christian Action updates via the internet and will share this information with friends and your church, please e-mail us at rwood@mbcb.org. Include your name, address, phone number, and church name.



**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
YOUTH NIGHT
JULY 19, 2002**

PHOTOS BY WILLIAM H. PERKINS JR.